

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for use in a network, comprising:
 - a user console;
 - a disc storage medium including a permanently recorded disc identification, the disc storage medium being readable by the user console, wherein the user console is operable to transmit the disc identification over the network; and
 - a host server in the network, the host server being configured to receive the disc identification and configured to assign points to a point account associated with the disc identification.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the user console includes a set identification that uniquely identifies the user console.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the user console includes a user identification that identifies a user of the user console.
4. The system of claim 3, further comprising a user database accessible by the host server, the user database including a user table associated with the user identification, the user table including the point account, the point account being further associated with the user identification.

1 5. The system of claim 2, further comprising a user database accessible by
2 the host server, the user database including a user table associated with the
3 set identification, the user table including the point account, the point account
4 being further associated with the set identification.

1 6. The system of claim 4, wherein the user console transmits the disc
2 identification and the user identification to the host server for authorization to
3 execute software residing on the disc storage medium.

1 7. The system of claim 5, wherein the user console transmits the disc
2 identification and the set identification to the host server for authorization to
3 execute software residing on the disc storage medium.

1 8. The system of claim 6, wherein the host server compares the disc
2 identification to a plurality of disc identifications stored in the user table
3 associated with the user identification, and compares the disc identification
4 with a plurality of disc identifications stored in other user tables associated
5 with other user identifications.

1 9. The system of claim 8, wherein if the disc identification matches one of
2 the plurality of disc identifications stored in the user table associated with the
3 user identification, the host server transmits to the user console an access
4 permission signal that authorizes execution of software stored on the disc
5 storage medium, assigns points to the point account of user table associated
6 with the disc identification and the user identification, and transmits point
7 information to the user console.

1 10. The system of claim 8, wherein if the disc identification matches one of
2 the plurality of disc identifications stored in the other user tables associated
3 with other user identifications, and if the matched other user table indicates
4 owner consent, the host server transmits to the user console an access
5 permission signal that authorizes execution of software stored on the disc
6 storage medium, assigns points to the point account of the other user table
7 associated with the disc identification and the other user identification, and
8 transmits point information to the user console.

1 11. The system of claim 10, wherein the host server assigns points to a point
2 account of the user table associated with the user identification.

1 12. The system of claim 8, wherein if the disc identification matches one of
2 the plurality of disc identifications stored in the other user tables associated
3 with other user identifications, and if the matched other user table does not
4 indicate owner consent, the host server transmits an access refusal signal to
5 the user console whereby the user console cannot execute software residing on
6 the disc storage medium.

1 13. The system of claim 8, wherein if the disc identification does not match
2 any disc identifications stored in any user table, the host server transmits to
3 the user console an access permission signal to execute software residing on
4 the disc storage medium, assigns points to the point account of user table
5 associated with the user identification, and transmits point information to the
6 user console.

1 14. The system of claim 13, wherein the host server records the disc
2 identification to the user table associated with the user identification.

1 15. The system of claim 8, further comprising a disc database accessible by
2 the host server, the disc database including a disc table that includes owner
3 consent data and a sub-account associated with the disc identification, the
4 sub-account including point data associated with the disc identification and
5 the owner consent data including access permission data for other users.

1 16. The system of claim 15, wherein if the disc identification matches one of
2 the plurality of disc identifications stored in the user table associated with the
3 user identification, the host server transmits to the user console an access
4 permission signal that authorizes execution of software stored on the disc
5 storage medium, assigns points to the sub-account of disc table associated
6 with the disc identification, and transmits point information to the user
7 console.

1 17. The system of claim 15, wherein if the disc identification matches one of
2 the plurality of disc identifications stored in the other user tables associated
3 with other user identifications, and if the matched other user table indicates
4 owner consent, the host server transmits to the user console an access
5 permission signal that authorizes execution of software stored on the disc
6 storage medium, assigns points to the sub-account of the disc table associated
7 with the disc identification, and transmits point information to the user
8 console.

1 18. The system of claim 17, wherein the host server assigns points to a point
2 account of the user table associated with the user identification.

1 19. The system of claim 15, wherein if the disc identification matches one of
2 the plurality of disc identifications stored in the other user tables associated
3 with other user identifications, and if the matched other user table does not
4 indicate owner consent, the host server transmits an access refusal signal to
5 the user console whereby the user console cannot execute software residing on
6 the disc storage medium.

1 20. The system of claim 15, wherein if the disc identification does not match
2 any disc identifications stored in any user table, the host server transmits to
3 the user console an access permission signal to execute software residing on
4 the disc storage medium and transmits point information to the user console.

1 21. The system of claim 20, wherein the host server records the disc
2 identification to the disc table.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the host server assigns points to the
2 sub-account of the disc table associated with the disc identification.

1 23. The system of claim 8, further comprising a plurality of publisher servers
2 accessible by the host server, the publisher servers being configured to manage
3 a plurality of publisher databases, wherein each of the publisher databases
4 includes sub-accounts managed by one of the publisher servers.

1 24. The system of claim 23, wherein if the disc identification matches one of
2 the plurality of disc identifications stored in the user table associated with the
3 user identification, the host server transmits to the user console an access
4 permission signal that authorizes execution of software stored on the disc
5 storage medium and transmits point information to the user console, and the
6 publisher server of the publisher database associated with the disc
7 identification assigns points to the sub-account of the publisher database
8 associated with the disc identification.

1 25. The system of claim 23, wherein if the disc identification matches one of
2 the plurality of disc identifications stored in the other user tables associated
3 with other user identifications, and if the matched other user table indicates
4 owner consent, the host server transmits to the user console an access
5 permission signal that authorizes execution of software stored on the disc
6 storage medium and transmits point information to the user console, and the
7 publisher server of the publisher database associated with the disc
8 identification assigns points to the sub-account of the publisher database
9 associated with the disc identification.

1 26. The system of claim 25, wherein the host server assigns points to a point
2 account of the user table associated with the user identification.

1 27. The system of claim 23, wherein if the disc identification matches one of
2 the plurality of disc identifications stored in the other user tables associated
3 with other user identifications, and if the matched other user table does not
4 indicate owner consent, the host server transmits an access refusal signal to
5 the user console whereby the user console cannot execute software residing on
6 the disc storage medium.

1 28. The system of claim 23, wherein if the disc identification does not match
2 any disc identifications stored in any user table, the host server transmits to
3 the user console an access permission signal to execute software residing on
4 the disc storage medium and transmits point information to the user console.

1 29. The system of claim 28, wherein the publisher server of the publisher
2 database associated with the disc storage medium identified by the disc
3 identification records the disc identification to the publisher database
4 associated with the disc storage medium identified by the disc identification.

1 30. The system of claim 29, wherein the publisher server of the publisher
2 database associated with the disc identification assigns points to the sub-
3 account of the publisher database associated with the disc identification.

1 31. A method for awarding points to users, comprising the steps of:
2 transmitting a disc identification stored on a disc storage medium to a
3 host server;
4 transmitting a user identification to the host server; and
5 comparing the transmitted disc identification to stored disc
6 identifications.

1 32. The method of claim 31, wherein points are added to a user table
2 associated with the user identification if the transmitted disc identification
3 matches a disc identification stored in the user table associated with the user
4 identification.

1 33. The method of claim 31, wherein points are added to an other user table
2 associated with an other user identification if the transmitted disc
3 identification matches a disc identification stored in the other user table
4 associated with the other user identification and if the other user table grants
5 owner consent.

1 34. The method of claim 33, wherein points are added to the user table
2 associated with the user identification.

1 35. The method of claim 31, wherein points are added to a user table
2 associated with the user identification if the transmitted disc identification
3 does not match any stored disc identifications in any user tables.

1 36. The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of recording the
2 transmitted disc identification to the user table associated with the user
3 identification.

1 37. The method of claim 31, wherein points are added to a disc table
2 associated with the stored disc identification if the transmitted disc
3 identification matches the stored disc identification in the user table.

1 38. The method of claim 31, wherein if the transmitted disc identification
2 matches a stored disc identification in an other user table and if the other user
3 table grants owner consent, points are added to a disc table associated with the
4 stored disc identification.

1 39. The method of claim 38, wherein points are added to the user table
2 associated with the user identification.

1 40. The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of recording the
2 transmitted disc identification to a disc table if the transmitted disc
3 identification does not match any stored disc identifications in any user tables.

1 41. The method of claim 40, wherein points are added to the disc table
2 associated with the disc identification.

1 42. The method of claim 31, wherein if the transmitted disc identification
2 matches a stored disc identification in the user table, points are added to a
3 publisher database associated with the stored disc identification.

1 43. The method of claim 31, wherein if the transmitted disc identification
2 matches a stored disc identification in an other user table and if the other user
3 table grants owner consent, points are added to a publisher database
4 associated with the stored disc identification.

1 44. The method of claim 43, wherein points are added to the user table
2 associated with the user identification.

1 45. The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of recording the
2 transmitted disc identification to a publisher database associated with the disc
3 storage medium identified by the transmitted disc identification if the
4 transmitted disc identification does not match any stored disc identifications in
5 any user tables.

1 46. The method of claim 45, wherein points are added to the publisher
2 database associated with the transmitted disc identification.

1 47. A system for managing a point scheme, comprising:
2 a network;
3 a content identified by a content identification; and
4 a host server being configured to receive the content identification from
5 the network and configured to assign points to a point account
6 associated with the content identification.

1 48. The system of claim 47, further comprising a user database accessible by
2 the host server, the user database including a user table associated with a user
3 identification, the user table including the point account, the point account
4 being further associated with the user identification.

1 49. The system of claim 48, wherein the host server receives the content
2 identification and the user identification for authorization to access the content
3 identified by the content identification.

1 50. The system of claim 49, wherein the host server compares the content
2 identification to a plurality of content identifications stored in the user table
3 associated with the user identification, and compares the content identification
4 with a plurality of content identifications stored in other user tables associated
5 with other user identifications.

1 51. The system of claim 50, wherein if the content identification matches one
2 of the plurality of content identifications stored in the user table associated
3 with the user identification, the host server transmits an access permission
4 signal to the user that authorizes access to the content, assigns points to the
5 point account of the user table associated with the content identification and
6 the user identification, and transmits point information to the user.

1 52. The system of claim 50, wherein if the content identification matches one
2 of the plurality of content identifications stored in the other user tables
3 associated with other user identifications, and if the matched other user table
4 indicates owner consent, the host server transmits to the user an access
5 permission signal that authorizes access to the content, assigns points to the
6 point account of the other user table associated with the content identification
7 and the other user identification, and transmits point information to the user.

1 53. The system of claim 52, wherein the host server assigns points to the
2 point account of the user table associated with the user identification.

1 54. The system of claim 50, wherein if the content identification matches one
2 of the plurality of content identifications stored in the other user tables
3 associated with other user identifications, and if the matched other user table
4 does not indicate owner consent, the host server transmits an access refusal
5 signal to the user whereby the user cannot access the content.

1 55. The system of claim 50, wherein if the content identification does not
2 match any content identifications stored in any user table, the host server
3 transmits to the user an access permission signal to access the content,
4 assigns points to the point account of the user table associated with the user
5 identification, and transmits point information to the user.

1 56. The system of claim 55, wherein the host server records the content
2 identification to the user table associated with the user identification.

1 57. The system of claim 50, further comprising a disc database accessible by
2 the host server, the disc database including a disc table that includes owner
3 consent data and a sub-account associated with the content identification, the
4 sub-account including point data associated with the content identification and
5 the owner consent data including access permission data for other users.

1 58. The system of claim 57, wherein if the content identification matches one
2 of the plurality of content identifications stored in the user table associated
3 with the user identification, the host server transmits to the user an access
4 permission signal that authorizes access to the content, assigns points to the
5 sub-account of the disc table associated with the content identification, and
6 transmits point information to the user.

1 59. The system of claim 57, wherein if the content identification matches one
2 of the plurality of content identifications stored in the other user tables
3 associated with other user identifications, and if the matched other user table
4 indicates owner consent, the host server transmits to the user an access
5 permission signal that authorizes access to the content, assigns points to the
6 sub-account of the disc table associated with the content identification, and
7 transmits point information to the user.

1 60. The system of claim 59, wherein the host server assigns points to the
2 point account of the user table associated with the user identification.

1 61. The system of claim 57, wherein if the content identification matches one
2 of the plurality of content identifications stored in the other user tables
3 associated with other user identifications, and if the matched other user table
4 does not indicate owner consent, the host server transmits an access refusal
5 signal to the user whereby the user cannot access the content.

1 62. The system of claim 57, wherein if the content identification does not
2 match any content identifications stored in any user table, the host server
3 transmits to the user an access permission signal to access the content and
4 transmits point information to the user.

1 63. The system of claim 62, wherein the host server records the content
2 identification to the disc table.

1 64. The system of claim 63, wherein the host server assigns points to the
2 sub-account of the disc table associated with the content identification.

1 65. The system of claim 50, further comprising a plurality of publisher
2 servers accessible by the host server, the publisher servers being configured to
3 manage a plurality of publisher databases, wherein each of the publisher
4 databases includes sub-accounts managed by one of the publisher servers.

1 66. The system of claim 65, wherein if the content identification matches one
2 of the plurality of content identifications stored in the user table associated
3 with the user identification, the host server transmits to the user an access
4 permission signal that authorizes access to the content and transmits point
5 information to the user, and the publisher server of the publisher database
6 associated with the content identification assigns points to the sub-account of
7 the publisher database associated with the content identification.

1 67. The system of claim 65, wherein if the content identification matches one
2 of the plurality of content identifications stored in the other user tables
3 associated with other user identifications, and if the matched other user table
4 indicates owner consent, the host server transmits to the user an access
5 permission signal that authorizes access to the content and transmits point
6 information to the user, and the publisher server of the publisher database
7 associated with the content identification assigns points to the sub-account of
8 the publisher database associated with the content identification.

1 68. The system of claim 67, wherein the host server assigns points to the
2 point account of the user table associated with the user identification.

1 69. The system of claim 65, wherein if the content identification matches one
2 of the plurality of content identifications stored in the other user tables
3 associated with other user identifications, and if the matched other user table
4 does not indicate owner consent, the host server transmits an access refusal
5 signal to the user whereby the user cannot access the content.

1 70. The system of claim 65, wherein if the content identification does not
2 match any content identifications stored in any user table, the host server
3 transmits to the user an access permission signal to access the content and
4 transmits point information to the user.

1 71. The system of claim 70, wherein a publisher server of a publisher
2 database associated with the content identified by the content identification
3 records the content identification to the publisher database.

1 72. The system of claim 71, wherein the publisher server of the publisher
2 database associated with the content identification assigns points to the sub-
3 account of the publisher database associated with the content identification.

1 73. A method for managing a point scheme, comprising the steps of:
2 a host server receiving a content identification of a content and a user
3 identification of a user from a network;
4 comparing the received content identification to stored content
5 identifications;
6 authorizing access to the content identified by the content
7 identification; and
8 awarding points to point accounts associated with user identifications
9 and the received content identification.